

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 IGA-02 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 051500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5179

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BEXP, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD - SECOND LEG FEASIBILITY STUDY

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

REF: (A) MCKEE/BONGO LETTER OF JAN 23, 1974 (NOTAL)

(B) LIBREVILLE 1062 NOV 30, 1973

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED ON JANUARY 28 COPY OF JANUARY 23 MORRISON-KNUDSEN (M-K) LETTER WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT BONGO POINTING OUT M-K HAD NOT YET RECEIVED COPY OF SECOND LEG (BOOUE-FRANCEVILLE) FEASIBILITY STUDY DONE BY GERMAN FIRM HOLZMANN BROTHERS THAT M-K HAD REQUESTED IN EARLY DECEMBER.

2. EMBOFF IMMEDIATELY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH OCTRA AND DISCOVERED OCTRA HAD NOT RECEIVED COPIES OF THREE MOST RECENT M-K-GOG CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING REF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LETTER. OCTRA GAVE EMBOFF PRELIMINARY COPY OF

HOLZMANN REPORT WHICH WE FORWARDED TO M-K IN PARIS
OFFICE IN JANUARY 29 POUCH. OCTRA STATED FINAL REPORT
DUE FEBRUARY 28.

3. GOG WAS EXPECTING M-K FIRM OFFER BY END OF
JANUARY. FORMIN RAWIRI DISCUSSED MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR
AND RAWIRI CHAGRINED WHEN TOLD OF GOG BUREAUCRATIC
SLIPPAGE. HE SUGGESTED M-K SEND COPIES TO OCTRA OF
ALL ITS FUTURE RAILROAD CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRESIDENCY.
GOG UNDERSTANDS REASON FOR DELAY AND NOW EXPECTS END
OF FEBRUARY BID SUBMISSION BY M-K.

4. EMBASSY OF OPINION M-K STILL HAS INSIDE TRACK
FOR SECOND LEG CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BUT TIME IS
AWASTING AND ONE CAN BE SURE COMPETITORS ARE NOT
STANDING STILL. SUGGEST M-K USE PRELIMINARY REPORT
TO PREPARE BID AND SUBMIT TO GOG ASAP.

5. PRESIDENT BONGO HAS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR
HAVING M-K-GOG SIGNING CEREMONY IN LIBREVILLE NOT
IN U.S. (SEE REFTTEL B). BELIEVE FACT THAT M-K REPS
COULD DISCUSS MATTERS DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT BONGO
MAKE LIBREVILLE MOST APPROPRIATE VENUE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE PASS ABOVE TO M-K IN
PARIS AND IN U.S. AND ADVISE EMBASSY IF M-K WOULD
BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FIRM OFFER TO GOG END OF
FEBRUARY.

7. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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